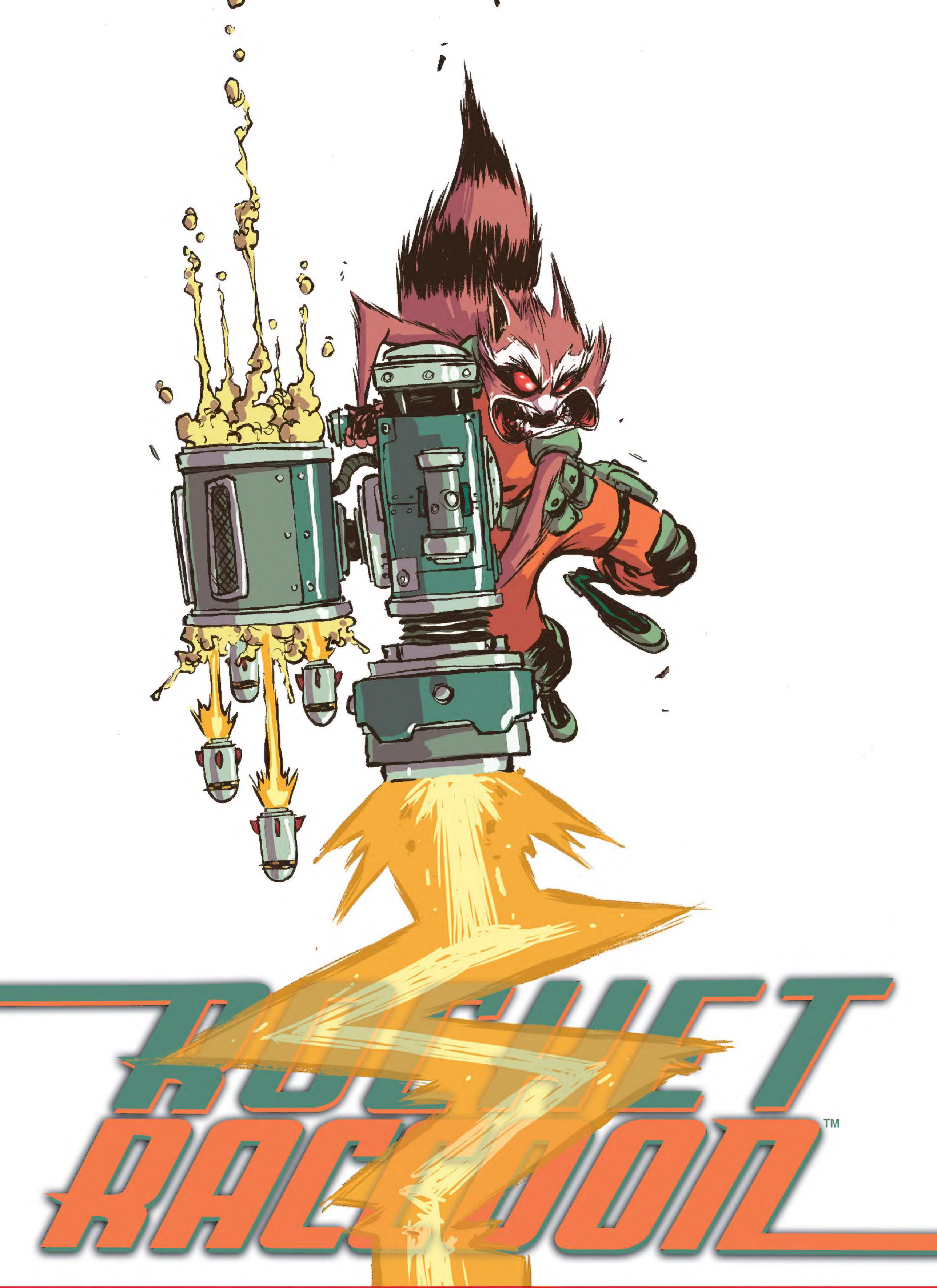

MARVEL

YOUNG
ANDRADE
BEAULIEU

008

MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT PROUDLY PRESENTS

ROCKET

GUARDIAN OF THE GALAXY, GUNSLINGER, GOOD SAMARITAN?

ROCKET, THE TALKING SPACE RACCOON AND HIS BEST BUDDY GROOT, THE TALKING SPACE TREE, ARE STRANDED ON A SNOW-COVERED PLANET. IT'S NOT A WINTER WONDERLAND.

GROOT WAS POISONED BY A VENOMOUS NOGU MONSTER AND NOW ROCKET, WITH THE HELP OF JINK, A LOCAL WARRIOR PRINCESS, IS SNEAKING INTO THE LAIR OF THE NOGU QUEEN TO STEAL THE CURE…THE YOLK OF A NOGU EGG. EASY PEASY.

GOOD THING RACCOONS ARE PRETTY GREAT BURGLARS.

RACCOON

THE COLD part 2

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THE POLAR PLANET KNOWN AS FRON.
HOW MUCH FURTHER DO WE HAVE TO GO? I'M CHAFFING LIKE A ROTTEN JORK BACK HERE.

ONE MORE LIGHT, THEN DARK. BUT IT COULD BE LONGER IF WE MUST KEEP STOPPING FOR YOU TO RELIEVE YOURSELF.
HEY, LADY, EXCUSE ME FOR BEING A MAN OF SMALLER STATURE. WE ALL CAN'T BE BIG OL' WARRIOR TYPES WITH MONSTER BLADDERS.
THEN FOR YOUR TREE'S SAKE, I SUGGEST YOU HOLD OFF ON DRINKING IF YOU'D LIKE TO RETRIEVE AN EGG AND RETURN IN TIME TO SAVE HIM.
YEAH, YEAH, JINK. NO MATTER WHAT PLANET I END UP ON, EVERYONE'S GOT JOKES.
SPEAKING OF SAVING PEOPLE, WHAT WAS ALL THAT STUFF WITH THE CHIEF LAST NIGHT?
HE SAID YOU'D BEEN THROUGH THIS BEFORE.
THREE MOONS AGO, MY MOTHER AND I WENT OUT TO GATHER ORI STONES.
"A STORM CAME FROM NOWHERE AND SLOWED OUR RETURN HOME. WE WERE NOT ABLE TO BEAT THE DARK.

"WE HOPED THAT THE STORM WOULD KEEP THE NOGU IN UNTIL NEXT *LIGHT* BUT THE SPIRITS WERE NOT ON OUR SIDE THAT *DARK*.

"WE FLED. MY MOTHER WAS A STRONG WOMAN AND HAD BEEN FOR MANY MOONS, BUT TIME IS NOT THE BODY'S ALLY.

"THEY WERE ON HER TOO QUICKLY.

"SHE TOLD ME TO RUN.

"I DISOBEYED.

"SHE WAS ALIVE FOR A TIME, BUT THE VENOM SPREAD FAST."

OUR HEALER THOUGHT THE YOLK OF A NOGU EGG WOULD SAVE HER. I GATHERED THE WARRIORS BUT...

...HE SAID WE COULD NOT RISK THE LIVES OF OUR PEOPLE TO SAVE ONLY THE ONE.
I BEGGED HIM BUT HE CALLED ME SELFISH AND FORBADE IT.

WOW, WHAT AN #$@!%. LETTING HIS OWN WI--

OOF!

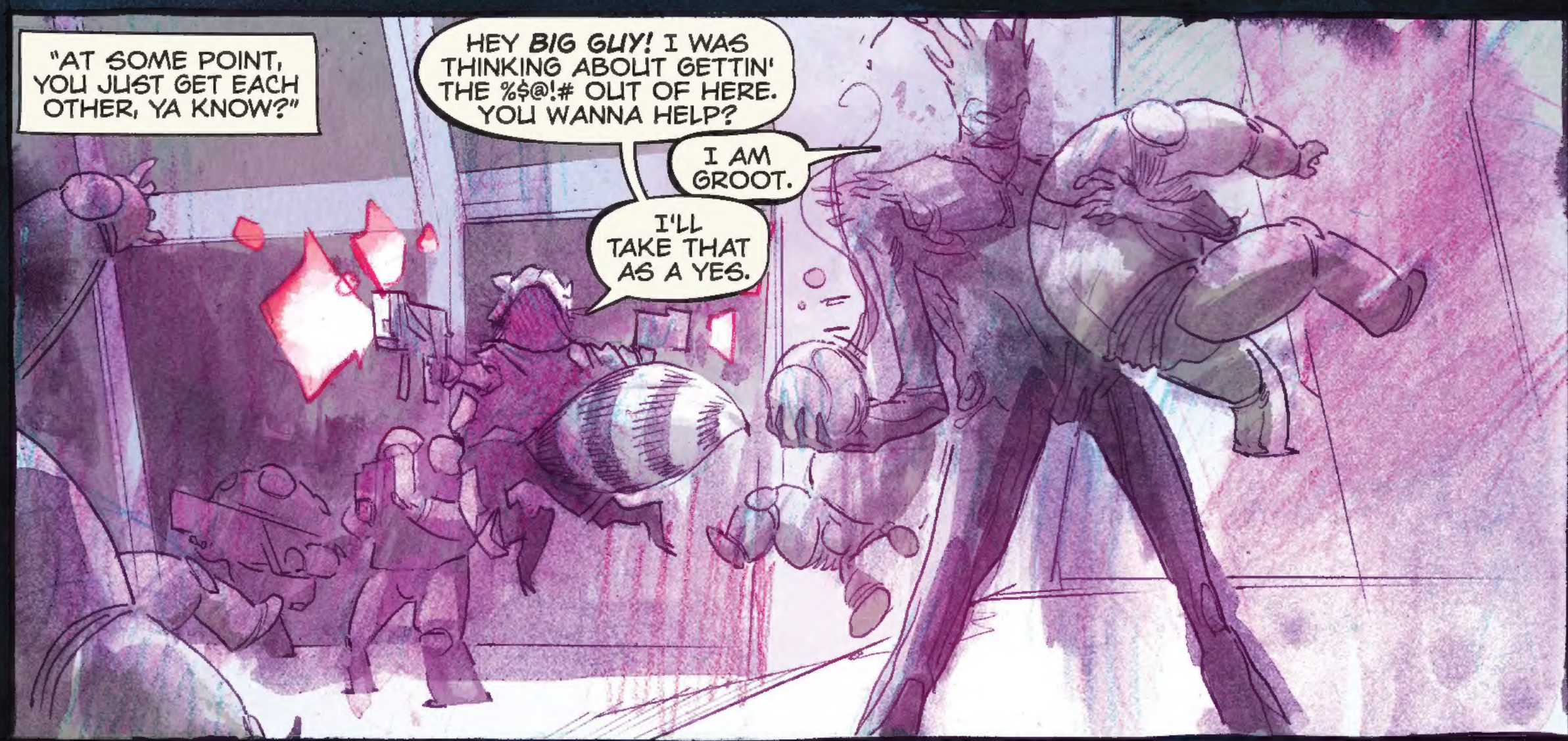
MY FATHER IS A *GREAT* LEADER AND SACRIFICED HER TO KEEP OUR PEOPLE SAFE AND ALIVE!
YOU COULD *NEVER* UNDERSTAND THAT!

LOOK, I'M SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE...
I'M SORRY.

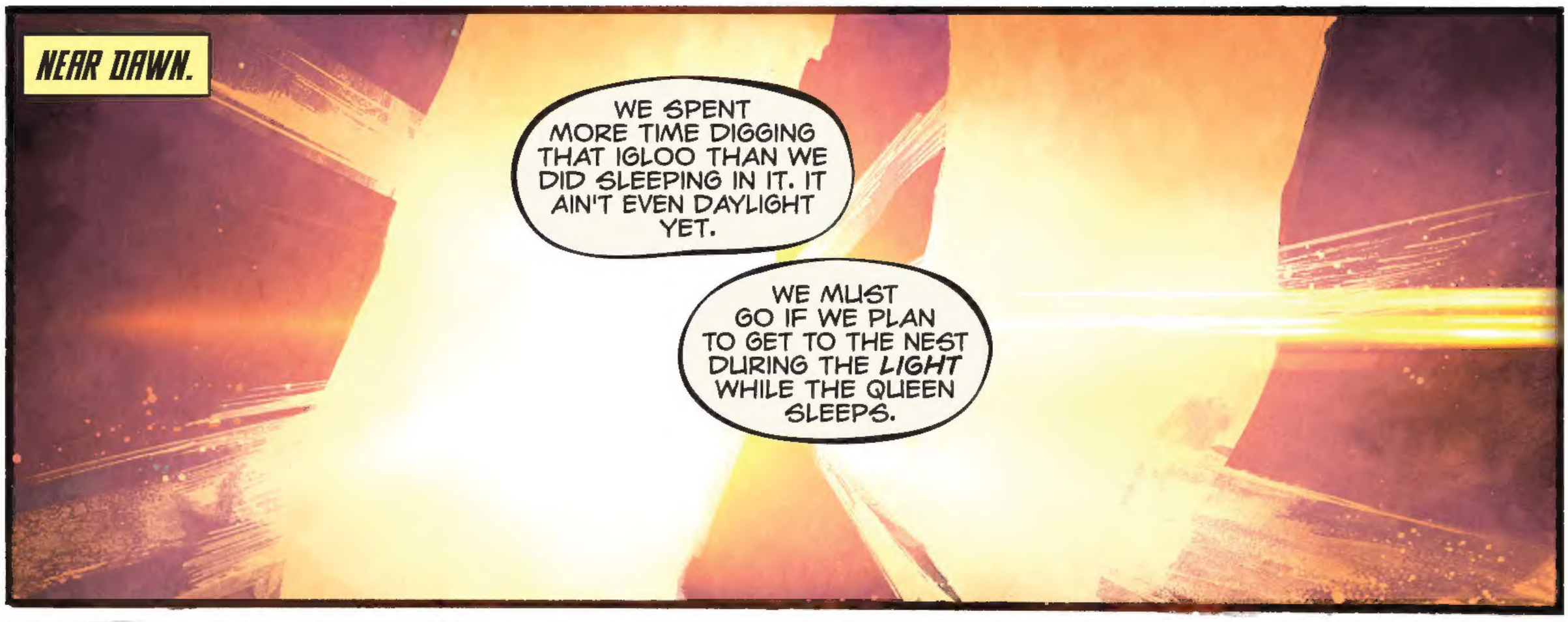
THE *LIGHT* IS SETTING. WE DIG A CAMP.

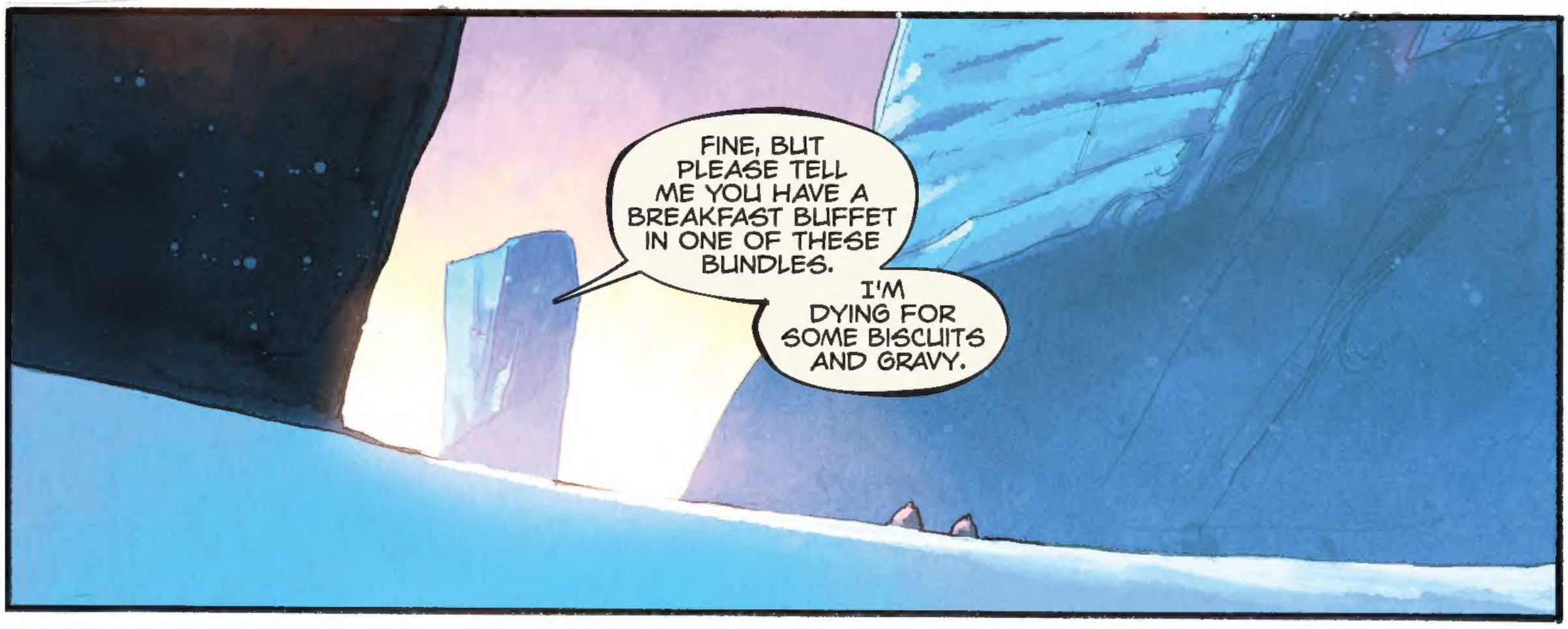
LATER.
PRETTY COZY LITTLE PLACE WE'VE GOT HERE.
IT'S SAFE, THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.
WHAT ABOUT OUR FURRY FRIENDS UP THERE? SEEMS A BIT UNFAIR FOR US TO BE PLAYING HOUSE DOWN HERE WHILE THEY SLEEP OUT IN THE OPEN.
THE BABBAS CAN TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES AND HAVE DONE SO LONG BEFORE THIS PLANET WAS BOTHERED BY TWO-LEGGERS.
FAIR ENOUGH.
YOUR FRIEND...
GROOT.
YES, GROOT. I'D VERY MUCH LIKE TO HEAR HOW YOU CAME TO KNOW SUCH A THING AS HIM.
YOU KNOW, IT'S A CLASSIC MEET-CUTE. A LONG TIME AGO.
GROOT AND I MET IN A PRISON. I HAD THE BRAINS, HE HAD THE MUSCLE.
HEY BIG GUY! I WAS THINKING ABOUT GETTIN' THE %$@!# OUT OF HERE. YOU WANNA HELP?
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A YES.
I AM GROOT.

"OVER THE YEARS, THAT COMBINATION HELPED US OUT OF A LOT OF JAMS."
HEY BIG GUY! I WAS THINKING ABOUT GETTIN' THE %$@!# OUT OF HERE. YOU WANNA HELP?
I AM GROOT.
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A YES.

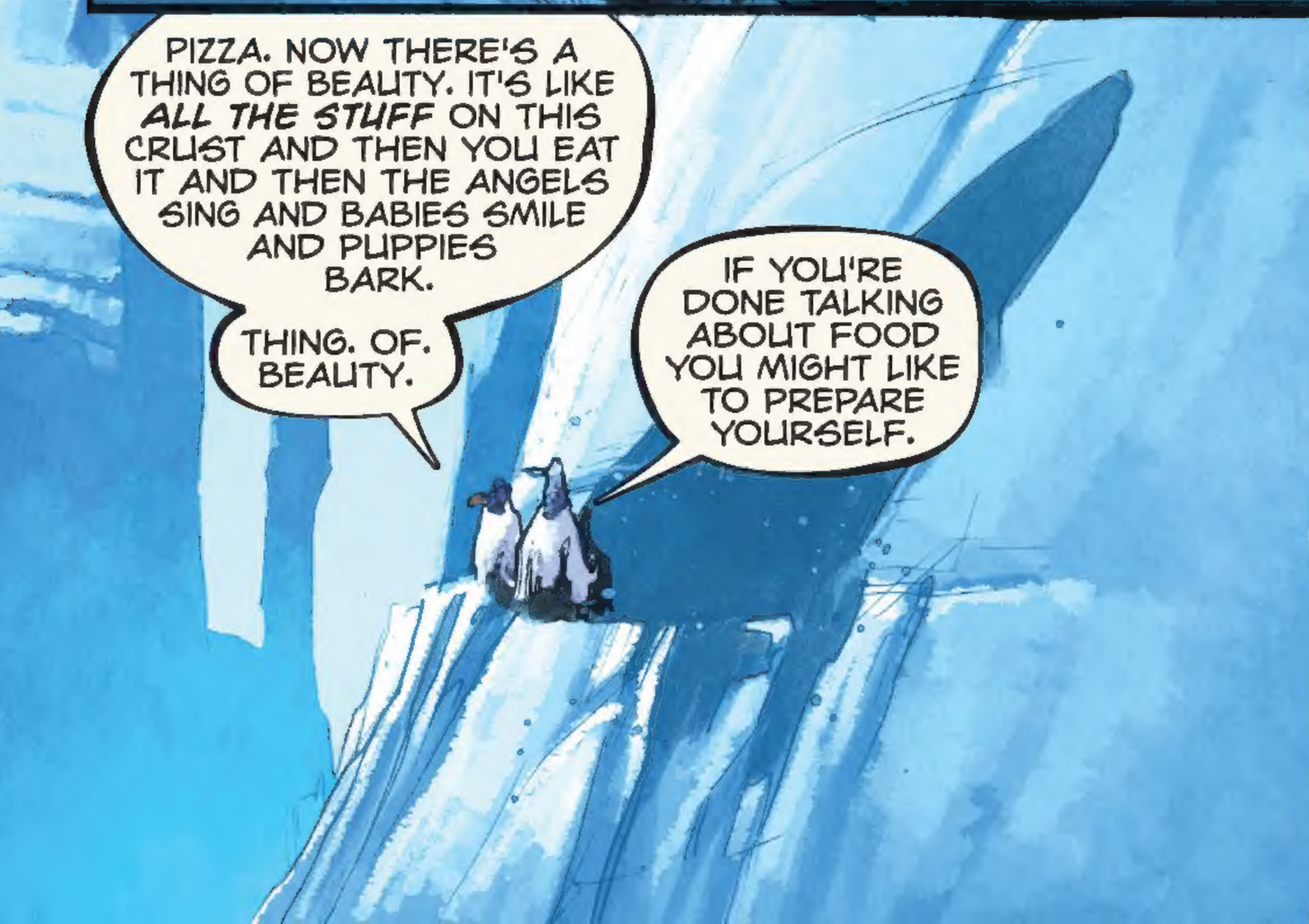

"AT SOME POINT, YOU JUST GET EACH OTHER, YA KNOW?"
HEY BIG GUY! I WAS THINKING ABOUT GETTIN' THE %$@!# OUT OF HERE. YOU WANNA HELP?
I AM GROOT.
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A YES.

THAT GUY HAS TAKEN A LOT OF HITS FOR ME. MORE THAN I SHOULD HAVE EVER ASKED FOR.
SO THERE IS NO RISK HERE. I GO FOR THIS QUEEN BEAST. MAYBE I GET AN EGG, MAYBE I DIE.
WE'LL FIND OUT TOMORROW, I GUESS.
YES, WE WILL. THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR STORY, ROCKET. I ENJOYED THE TALE.
THAT'S WHAT SH--
WHAT?
NEVER MIND. GOODNIGHT, JINK.
LET'S HOPE.


NEAR DAWN.
WE SPENT MORE TIME DIGGING THAT IGLOO THAN WE DID SLEEPING IN IT. IT AIN'T EVEN DAYLIGHT YET.
WE MUST GO IF WE PLAN TO GET TO THE NEST DURING THE LIGHT WHILE THE QUEEN SLEEPS.


FINE, BUT PLEASE TELL ME YOU HAVE A BREAKFAST BUFFET IN ONE OF THESE BUNDLES.
I'M DYING FOR SOME BISCUITS AND GRAVY.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT BACON IS? EARTH IS A REAL YAK HOLE BUT THEY HAVE SOME STELLAR GRUB THERE.

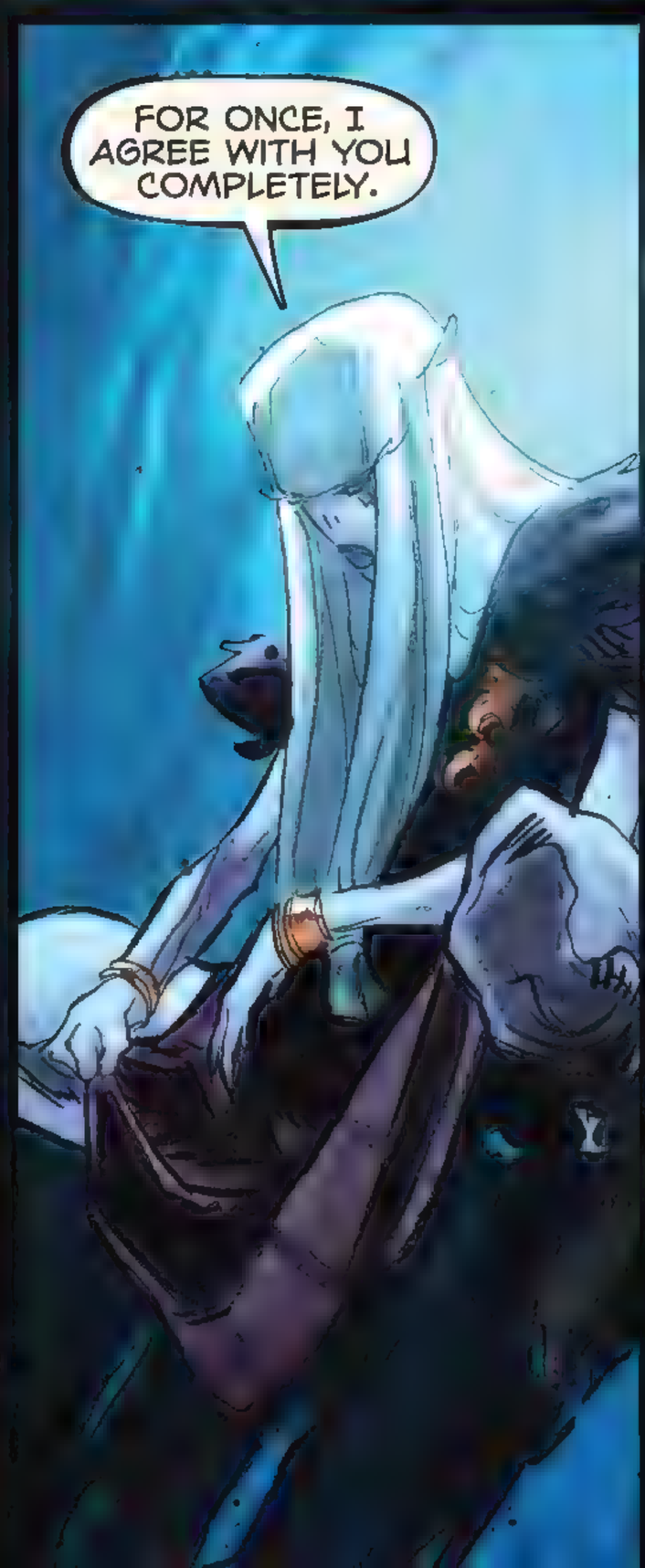

PIZZA. NOW THERE'S A THING OF BEAUTY. IT'S LIKE ALL THE STUFF ON THIS CRUST AND THEN YOU EAT IT AND THEN THE ANGELS SING AND BABIES SMILE AND PUPPIES BARK.
THING. OF. BEAUTY.
IF YOU'RE DONE TALKING ABOUT FOOD YOU MIGHT LIKE TO PREPARE YOURSELF.

WE'RE HERE.

OF ALL THE WAYS I THOUGHT I'D BITE IT, STEALING AN EGG FROM INSIDE A GIANT POPSICLE WASN'T EVEN ON THE LIST.
WE STILL HAVE A BIT OF A CLIMB SO IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT YOU'LL DIE WELL BEFORE REACHING THE ENTRANCE.
EITHER YOU'RE A SUPER DARK LADY...
...OR YOU JUST MADE A JOKE. I'M NOT SURE WHICH IS MORE SCARY.
WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF SCARY AHEAD OF US. IT'S TIME TO MAKE OUR WAY INSIDE.

WE CAN ENTER THERE.
I'D FEEL A LOT BETTER ABOUT THIS IF I HAD A FEW GUNS ON ME.
THIS MISSION IS ABOUT BEING SMART AND SWIFT.
THERE AIN'T NOTHING SMARTER THAN KNOWING WHEN TO PUT A FEW ROUNDS IN A WOULD-BE GONNA-KILL-YOU THINGY.
ROCKET, I THINK YOU'D AGREE...

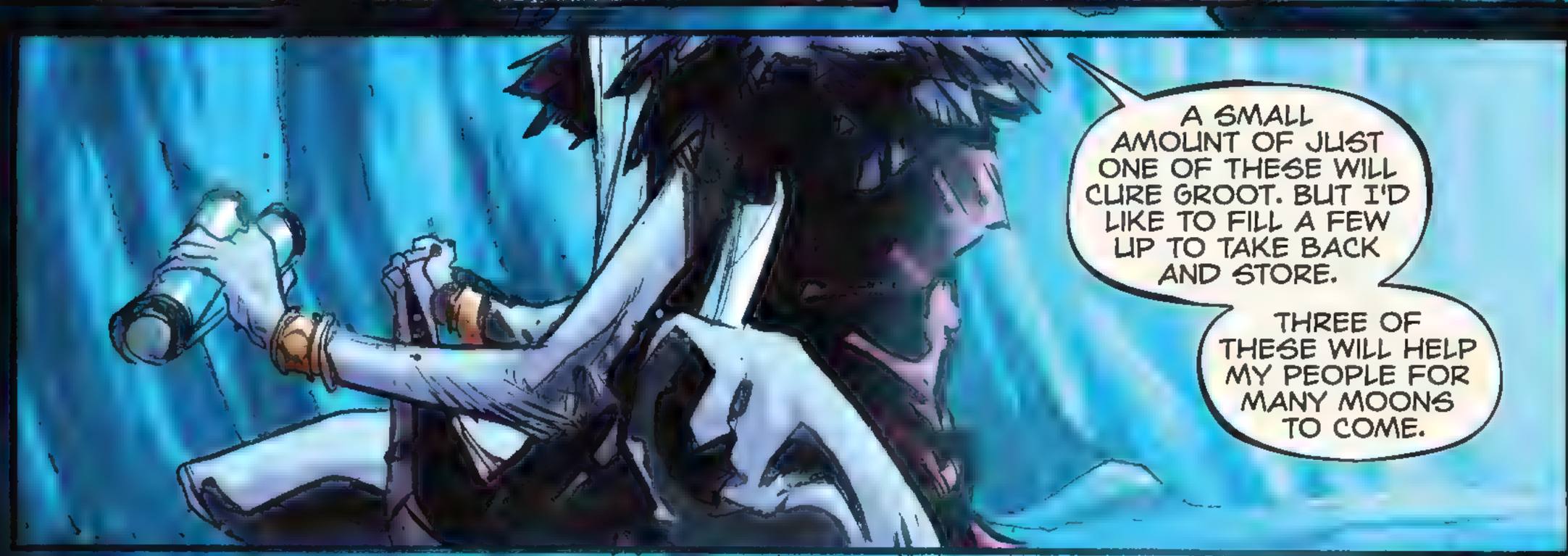
...YOUR GUN WOULD BE OF LITTLE HELP.



WE DON'T NEED THE ENTIRE EGG.
AND WHAT'S A VOLKS-WAGEN?

WE ONLY NEED WHAT'S INSIDE.

STICK THIS INTO THE EGG. THE OUTER SHELL WILL BE THICK SO YOU'LL HAVE TO PUT SOME FORCE BEHIND IT.


A SMALL AMOUNT OF JUST ONE OF THESE WILL CURE GROOT. BUT I'D LIKE TO FILL A FEW UP TO TAKE BACK AND STORE.
THREE OF THESE WILL HELP MY PEOPLE FOR MANY MOONS TO COME.

SO, FILL AS MANY UP AS YOU--

ROCKET???

GROOT WOULD BE SO PROUD THAT *I'M* THE ONE BOLTING IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMEONE ELSE MAKING A PLAN.

I WAS KIND OF TERRIFIED BUT NOW I FEEL ALL GIDDY AND REBELLIOUS AND--

NOPE. TERRIFIED AGAIN.

IN FACT, I MAY HAVE JUST *TERRIFIED* IN MY PANTS.

JINK, I GOT IT! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!

BE QUIET OR YOU'LL WAKE UP THE QU--
OH @%#$!
GWAAAARRR!

GO!
RUN, YOU FOOL! SAVE YOUR FRIEND!
JINK, NOOO!!!

MY LEGS ARE NOT WORKING. MY BRAIN IS RUNNING. IT'S RUNNING SO FAST.
RUN, LEGS!
YES! GOOD JOB, LEGS!
DOOF!
$#@!% YOU, LEGS!
SORRY, GROOT. LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE MEETING IN THE GREAT PRISON IN THE SKY SOON ENOUGH.
WHAT THE--

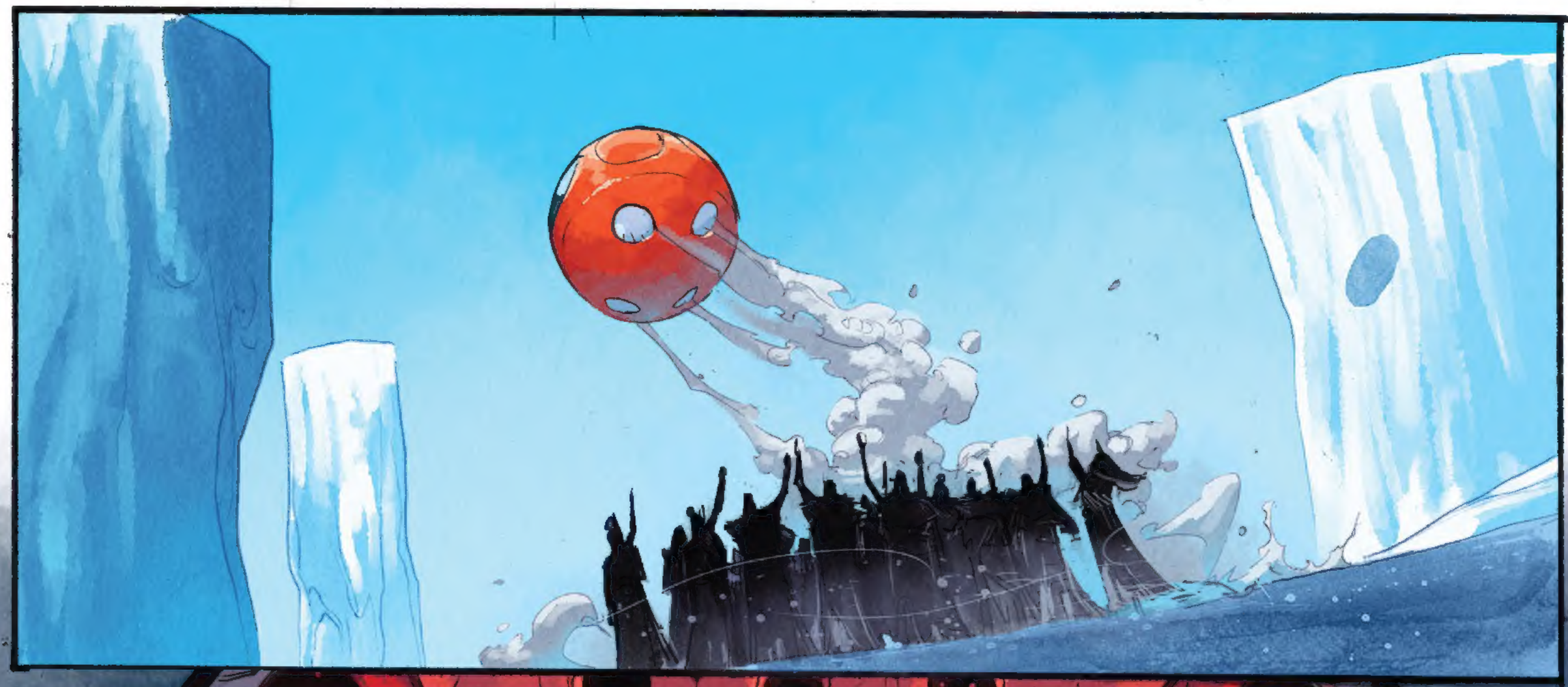
I HAD A PLAN, GETTING EATEN WAS NOT PART OF IT.
YOU... ARE...

...SO AWESOME!!!
THAT BEAST WAS ALL "I'M GONNA EAT YOU!" AND YOU WERE ALL "WHATEVS. DO IT, SEE WHAT HAPPENS."
"I'LL COME BURSTING OUT OF YOUR GUTS, THAT'S WHAT'LL HAPPEN!"
SO AWESOME.
AGAIN, I'LL AGREE WITH YOU. BUT WE NEED TO FILL AS MANY OF THESE UP AS WE CAN BEFORE THE NOGU IN THE LOWER LEVELS WAKE.
LATER.
I KIND OF WANT THEM TO WAKE UP JUST TO SEE YOU WRECK SHOP SOME MORE.
OR BETTER YET. WE'LL LET ONE OF THEM SWALLOW YOU AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
ON THE OTHER HAND, WE SHOULD REALLY NOT DO THAT.
LET'S GET THIS GUNK BACK TO GROOT AND HOPE HE'S NOT TOO FAR GONE.

ON BEHALF OF OUR PEOPLE WE GIVE YOU THIS TOKEN OF OUR GRATITUDE AND WELCOME YOU AS A MEMBER OF OUR TRIBE FROM THIS MOON UNTIL THE LAST.

THEN I WILL LOOK FORWARD TO OUR PATHS CROSSING AGAIN ONE DAY.
AS WILL I.
AND THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME.

I OWE YOU ONE.
THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID.
I KNOW YOU'RE INTO THE FUNNY THING NOW BUT THAT AIN'T EVEN CLOSE.



YOU HAVE FORTY-SEVEN NEW MESSAGES.
FILTER OUT ANY FROM THE INTERGALACTIC COURT COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT.
YOU HAVE TWO NEW MESSAGES.
PLAY 'EM.

TO BE CONTINUED...

ZONE